



For Release: Thursday, April 07, 2016

16-726-NEW

NEW YORK–NEW JERSEY INFORMATION OFFICE: New York City, N.Y.

Technical information: (646) 264-3600 BLSinfoNY@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/new-york-new-jersey

Media contact: (646) 264-3620

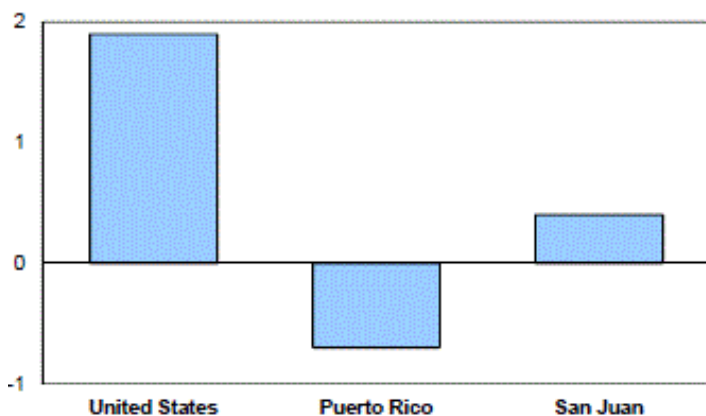
County Employment and Wages in Puerto Rico - Third Quarter 2015

Puerto Rico's only large county, the municipio of San Juan, reported an employment increase of 0.4 percent from September 2014 to September 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (Large counties are defined as those with employment of 75,000 or more as measured by 2014 annual average employment.) Chief Regional Economist Martin Kohli noted that in September 2015, San Juan's employment level of 250,396 accounted for 28.1 percent of total employment in the commonwealth.

In the United States, employment grew 1.9 percent over the year, as 312 of the 342 largest U.S. counties gained jobs. (See [table 1](#) and [chart 1](#).) The 342 largest counties made up 72.2 percent of total U.S. employment.

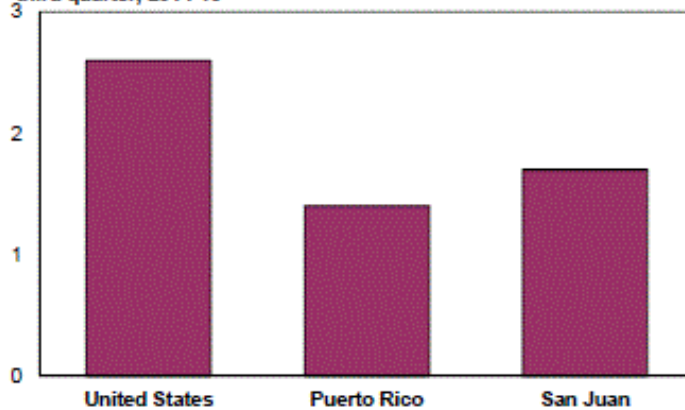
The average weekly wage in San Juan was \$614 in the third quarter of 2015, 1.7 percent higher than a year ago. By comparison, the U.S. weekly wage increased 2.6 percent over the year to \$974. (See [table 1](#) and [chart 2](#).)

Chart 1. Percent change in employment, United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, September 2014-15



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Chart 2. Percent change in average weekly wages, United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, third quarter, 2014-15



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Employment and wage levels (but not over-the-year changes) are also available for the 77 municipios in Puerto Rico with employment below 75,000. All 77 had wages below the U.S. average of \$974. (See [table 2](#).) Juncos, located on the eastern part of the island, had the highest average weekly wage, \$880. Guaynabo, located on the northern part of the island, was the only other small municipio with an average weekly wage above \$600. Thirty-one municipios had average weekly wages below \$400, with roughly half of these low-wage municipios located in the western end of the island, including Lares (\$323) and Las Marias (\$319). (See [chart 3](#).)

In the neighboring Virgin Islands, average weekly wages were also below the U.S. average. The highest average weekly wage among the three Virgin Island counties was \$756 in St. Thomas. Average weekly wages on St. Croix and St. John were \$716 and \$693, respectively.

Though employment on each island was below 25,000, more than half of the Virgin Island's 36,800 jobs in September 2015 were on St. Thomas, and an additional 14,100 were on St. Croix.

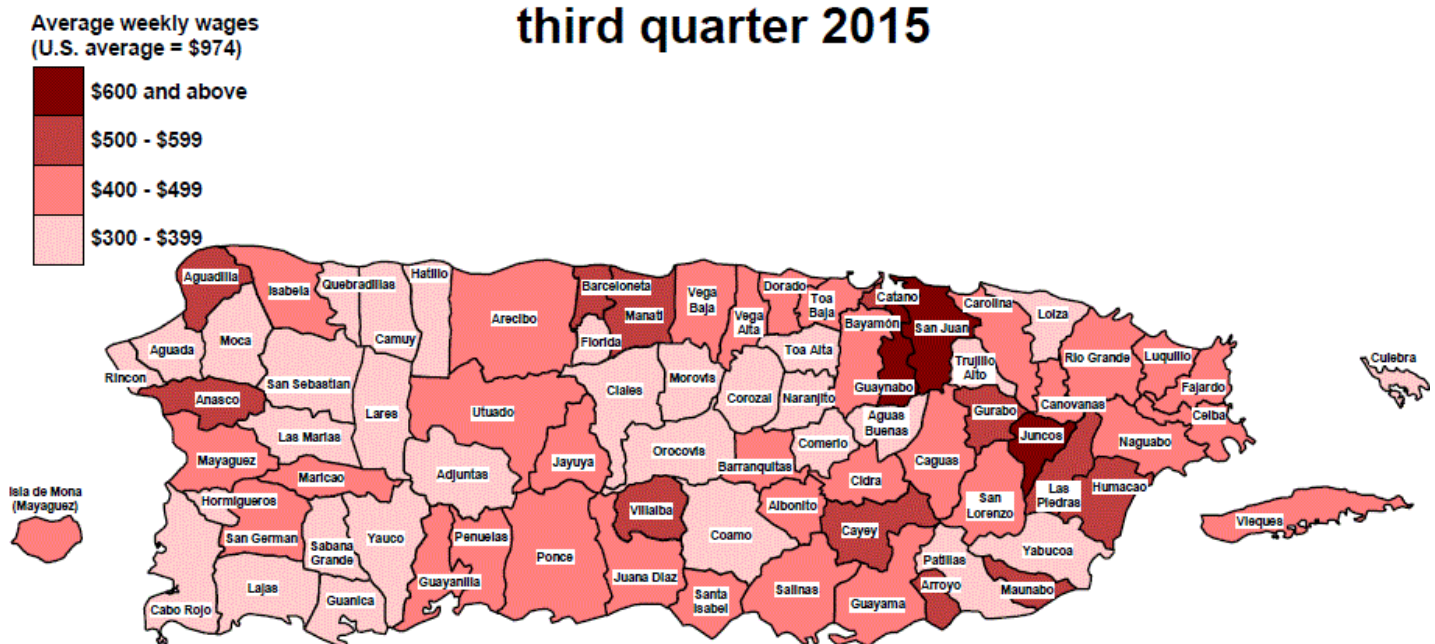
Additional statistics and other information

QCEW data for states have been included in this release in [table 3](#). For additional information about quarterly employment and wages data, please read the [Technical Note](#) or visit www.bls.gov/cew.

Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online features comprehensive information by detailed industry on establishments, employment, and wages for the nation and all states. The 2014 edition of this publication contains selected data produced by Business Employment Dynamics (BED) on job gains and losses, as well as selected data from the first quarter 2015 version of the national news release. Tables and additional content from *Employment and Wages Annual Averages 2014* are now available online at www.bls.gov/cew/cewbultn14.htm. The 2015 edition of *Employment and Wages Annual Averages Online* will be available in September 2016.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Chart 3. Average weekly wages by county in Puerto Rico, third quarter 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The County Employment and Wages release for fourth quarter 2015 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

Technical Note

Average weekly wage data by county are compiled under the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program, also known as the ES-202 program. The data are derived from summaries of employment and total pay of workers covered by state and federal unemployment insurance (UI) legislation and provided by State Workforce Agencies (SWAs). The 9.6 million employer reports cover 140.4 million full- and part-time workers. The average weekly wage values are calculated by dividing quarterly total wages by the average of the three monthly employment levels of those covered by UI programs. The result is then divided by 13, the number of weeks in a quarter. It is to be noted, therefore, that over-the-year wage changes for geographic areas may reflect shifts in the composition of employment by industry, occupation, and such other factors as hours of work. Thus, wages may vary among counties, metropolitan areas, or states for reasons other than changes in the average wage level. Data for all states, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), counties, and the nation are available on the BLS Web site at www.bls.gov/cew/; however, data in QCEW press releases have been revised and may not match the data contained on the Bureau's Web site.

QCEW data are not designed as a time series. QCEW data are simply the sums of individual establishment records reflecting the number of establishments that exist in a county or industry at a point in time. Establishments can move in or out of a county or industry for a number of reasons—some reflecting economic events, others reflecting administrative changes.

The preliminary QCEW data presented in this release may differ from data released by the individual states as well as from the data presented on the BLS Web site. These potential differences result from the states' continuing receipt, review and editing of UI data over time. On the other hand, differences between data in this release and the data found on the BLS Web site are the result of adjustments made to improve over-the-year comparisons. Specifically, these adjustments account for administrative (noneconomic) changes such as a correction to a previously reported location or industry classification. Adjusting for these administrative changes allows users to more accurately assess changes of an economic nature (such as a firm moving from one county to another or changing its primary economic activity) over a 12-month period. Currently, adjusted data are available only from BLS press releases.

Table 1. Covered employment and wages in the United States, Puerto Rico, and San Juan, third quarter 2015

Area	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾	
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15 ⁽²⁾	Average weekly wage	Percent change, fourth quarter 2014-15 ⁽²⁾
United States ⁽³⁾	140,442.2	1.9	\$974	2.6
Puerto Rico	891.1	-0.7	512	1.4
San Juan	250.4	0.4	614	1.7

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Percent changes were computed from quarterly employment and pay data adjusted for noneconomic county reclassifications.

(3) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Puerto Rico, third quarter 2015

Area	Employment September 2015	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
United States ⁽²⁾	140,442,224	\$974
Puerto Rico	891,130	512
Adjuntas	1,852	344
Aguada	4,243	340
Aguadilla	17,531	556
Aguas Buenas	1,797	378
Aibonito	5,492	473
Anasco	5,420	501
Arecibo	20,340	493
Arroyo	2,470	518
Barceloneta	9,256	545
Barranquitas	3,068	410
Bayamon	54,997	462
Cabo Rojo	6,373	330
Caguas	45,682	467
Camuy	3,113	380
Canovanas	5,775	439
Carolina	46,532	471
Catano	10,266	577
Cayey	10,159	508
Ceiba	1,095	401
Ciales	1,499	364
Cidra	5,834	495
Coamo	3,785	383
Comerio	2,097	365
Corozal	4,022	364
Culebra	438	346
Dorado	8,106	482
Fajardo	11,330	476
Florida	1,204	373
Guanica	2,350	354
Guayama	10,974	493
Guayanilla	2,062	425
Guaynabo	45,789	620
Gurabo	6,504	527
Hatillo	8,414	354
Hormigueros	2,346	334
Humacao	16,525	530
Isabela	6,464	449
Jayuya	2,757	478
Juana Diaz	6,443	454
Juncos	6,499	880
Lajas	2,772	329
Lares	3,774	323
Las Marias	1,293	319
Las Piedras	6,236	583
Loiza	1,473	372
Luquillo	1,950	404
Manati	13,524	516
Maricao	1,120	433
Maunabo	1,302	577
Mayaguez	31,061	437
Moca	3,803	347
Morovis	2,299	375
Naguabo	1,953	414
Naranjito	2,788	392

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Covered employment and wages in the United States and all counties in Puerto Rico, third quarter 2015 - Continued

Area	Employment September 2015	Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾
Orocovis	3,156	331
Patillas	1,684	359
Penuelas	2,681	417
Ponce	48,148	445
Quebradillas	2,135	371
Rincon	1,644	353
Rio Grande	5,572	417
Sabana Grande	2,965	350
Salinas	3,482	472
San German	8,842	424
San Juan	250,396	614
San Lorenzo	4,140	490
San Sebastian	5,214	337
Santa Isabel	5,106	418
Toa Alta	3,656	394
Toa Baja	12,774	439
Trujillo Alto	10,894	329
Utuado	3,863	403
Vega Alta	4,569	401
Vega Baja	7,986	490
Vieques	1,808	418
Villalba	3,381	567
Yabucoa	2,958	382
Yauco	5,982	372

Footnotes

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

Note: Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs. Data are preliminary.

Table 3. Covered employment and wages by state, third quarter 2015

State	Employment		Average weekly wage ⁽¹⁾			
	September 2015 (thousands)	Percent change, September 2014-15	Average weekly wage	National ranking by level	Percent change, third quarter 2014-15	National ranking by percent change
United States ⁽²⁾	140,442.2	1.9	\$974	--	2.6	--
Alabama	1,893.6	1.2	830	34	1.8	40
Alaska	346.4	0.4	1,041	9	2.2	34
Arizona	2,613.9	2.9	889	24	1.5	42
Arkansas	1,193.4	1.9	756	48	2.6	22
California	16,474.4	3.0	1,134	5	3.4	6
Colorado	2,513.0	2.9	1,006	12	2.4	30
Connecticut	1,668.3	0.2	1,147	4	2.0	38
Delaware	436.3	2.1	963	15	0.3	48
District of Columbia	743.6	1.4	1,667	1	2.3	33
Florida	8,023.2	3.5	852	31	3.1	10
Georgia.....	4,171.1	2.8	916	22	2.8	19
Hawaii.....	635.4	1.4	896	23	3.1	10
Idaho	680.3	3.3	736	50	2.1	37
Illinois	5,888.6	1.3	1,020	10	3.9	3
Indiana.....	2,971.7	1.6	818	39	2.4	30
Iowa	1,535.9	0.4	823	38	3.0	14
Kansas	1,370.9	0.6	809	41	1.8	40
Kentucky.....	1,852.5	1.4	804	42	2.9	18
Louisiana	1,926.3	-0.2	858	30	0.7	47
Maine.....	609.7	0.7	779	46	3.3	7
Maryland.....	2,607.8	1.3	1,067	8	2.4	30
Massachusetts	3,446.9	1.4	1,197	2	3.0	14
Michigan	4,203.0	1.6	921	20	2.7	20
Minnesota.....	2,800.7	1.4	990	14	2.6	22
Mississippi.....	1,118.9	1.2	706	51	1.3	43
Missouri	2,737.9	1.9	846	32	2.2	34
Montana	457.9	1.9	759	47	3.7	4
Nebraska	964.0	1.4	811	40	4.2	2
Nevada	1,254.5	3.2	862	29	2.5	27
New Hampshire.....	642.8	1.5	952	18	2.7	20
New Jersey.....	3,933.9	1.4	1,116	6	2.6	22
New Mexico	809.2	0.6	798	43	1.3	43
New York	9,065.4	1.8	1,180	3	3.1	10
North Carolina	4,194.1	2.5	863	28	3.0	14
North Dakota	438.0	-3.8	956	17	-2.3	51
Ohio	5,282.7	1.2	878	25	1.9	39
Oklahoma	1,598.0	0.2	825	37	0.0	49
Oregon	1,812.8	3.0	924	19	4.4	1
Pennsylvania	5,722.1	0.8	961	16	2.5	27
Rhode Island	477.4	1.2	919	21	2.6	22
South Carolina.....	1,959.7	2.9	788	44	2.6	22
South Dakota.....	419.5	0.9	756	48	3.1	10
Tennessee	2,850.6	2.7	864	27	3.2	8
Texas	11,681.0	2.1	999	13	1.1	45
Utah	1,353.9	3.7	829	35	3.2	8
Vermont.....	308.2	0.5	829	35	3.0	14
Virginia.....	3,759.7	2.5	1,014	11	2.5	27
Washington.....	3,187.6	2.5	1,111	7	2.2	34
West Virginia	702.4	-1.1	785	45	0.9	46
Wisconsin	2,815.7	0.9	834	33	3.5	5
Wyoming	287.4	-1.5	866	26	-1.1	50
Puerto Rico.....	891.1	-0.7	512	(3)	1.4	(3)
Virgin Islands.....	36.8	-2.1	738	(3)	2.1	(3)

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

(1) Average weekly wages were calculated using unrounded data.

(2) Totals for the United States do not include data for Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands.

(3) Data not included in the national ranking.

Note: Data are preliminary. Covered employment and wages includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.